

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MTN GE 09418 192018Z

22-11

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 STRE-00 /132 W
----- 103932

R 191729Z DEC 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0962

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 9418

H PASS CODEL; PASS STR FOR ACTION; PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATIONS-BANGLADESH

REF: STATE 276773

1. CONSULTATIONS HELD WITH BANGLADESH MTN DEL (AHMED AND TAHMAN) WEDNESDAY, DEC 17, ON THEIR TROPICAL PRODUCTS (TP) REQUEST LIST. USDEL DETAILED THREE CATEGORIES OF US REACTIONS, COMMENTED ON INDIVIDUAL ITEMS DRAWING FROM REFTTEL, OUTLINED POSITION ON RECIPROCITY IN TP CONTEXT, AND INDICATED GSP ITEMS IN A SIMILAR MANNER TO PREVIOUS REPORTING CABLES ON CONSULTATIONS.

2. BANGLADESH (BG) DEL (AHMED NEW MINISTER-COUNSELOR IN GENEVA) STRESSED BG'S STATUS AS A LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY, INDICATING THAT AS SUCH THEY SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO GIVE RECIPROCITY OR CONCESSIONS. AHMED STRESSED THE NEED FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MTN GE 09418 192018Z

THE US TO MAKE CONCESSIONS, IN PARTICULAR ON JUTE, SINCE

THE SALES OF JUTE ACCOUNTED FOR 85 PCT OF BG'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE. HE NOTED THAT AS A COUNTRY WITH \$70 PER CAPITA INCOME, THAT THE US SHOULD NOT EXPECT CONTRIBUTIONS AND STRESSED THAT, IN FACT, DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT WAS NECESSARY FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. USING A HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE, HE INDICATED THAT THE US SHOULD CONSIDER MAKING A 50 PCT TARIFF REDUCTION ON A MFN BASIS BUT 100 PCT REDUCTION TO APPLY ONLY TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

3. MTN DEL RESPONDED THAT THE COMPETITIVE NEED REQUIREMENTS OF THE US GSP WERE RESPONSIVE TO BG'S POSITION AS A LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY NOTING THAT BG'S PRINCIPAL COMPETITOR IN OUR MARKET ON MOST JUTE PRODUCTS, INDIA, WAS EXCLUDED FROM GSP BECAUSE OF ITS MARKET POSITION. MTN DEL STRESSED THAT THE US AUTHORITY IN THE TRADE ACT PERMITTED TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON AN MFN BASIS ONLY. MTN DEL ALSO NOTED THAT US WAS COMMITTED TO PARA 5 OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION WHICH IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE STATUS OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

4. BG INDICATED THAT ADDITIONAL LIST OF REQUESTS SUBMITTED TO MTN DEL ON NOV 6 COVERED ALL POTENTIAL EXPORT ITEMS FOR BANGLADESH AND THAT IT WOULD BE REVISED IN LIGHT OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE US PRODUCT LIST FOR GSP. MTN DEL NOTED THIS VIEW AND INDICATED THAT THE REQUEST WAS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BUT BELIEVED THAT THE ITEMS WHICH WERE NOT COVERED BY GSP WERE LIKELY TO BE CATEGORY 3 ITEMS IN THAT MOST MEAT AND FISH ITEMS WERE NEARLY 100 PCT SUPPLIED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

5. AHMED CLOSED THE MEETING BY STRESSING THE VALUE OF CONCESSIONS ON JUTE AND SHRIMP TO HIS COUNTRY. WITH RESPECT TO SHRIMP AHMED ALLEGED THAT ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION A MAJOR CONSIGNMENT TO THE US MARKET, ALTHOUGH DISTRIBUTED TO HOTELS, WAS RECALLED ON THE BASIS IT DID NOT MEET UNSPECIFIED HEALTH AND SANITARY REGULATIONS. BG DEL STRESSED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MTN GE 09418 192018Z

IMPORTANCE OF DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM IN THE TP GROUP AND PROPOSED THAT THE APPROPRIATE US AGENCY CERTIFY LABORATORY PRACTICES IN HIS COUNTRY.

6. COMMENT: SEVERAL JUTE ITEMS ON BG'S REQUEST LIST ARE CONSIDERED CATEGORY 1 ITEMS (TSUS 305.20, 305.22, 305.28, 305.30, AND 315.75) BUT OTHERS (TSUS 315.80-.95, 305.09 AND 360.36) ARE CONSIDERED CATEGORY 2

ITEMS. AHMED ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT DC'S THE MAJOR
SUPPLIER ON 305.09 AND 360.36 BUT STRESSED BG WANTED
TO COMPETE ON THESE ITEMS. THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN
THESE JUTE ITEMS WAS DIFFICULT FOR MTN DEL TO EXPLAIN
GIVEN THAT DATA VAILABLE TO MTN DEL PROVIDED NO
EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES. REQUEST WASHINGTON
ADVICE ON LATTER ITEMS PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING.WALKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, COMMODITIES, POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MTNGE09418
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750442-1044
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751224/aaaaause.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 276773
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <07 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATIONS-BANGLADESH
TAGS: ETRD, BG, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006